

TO: []

17 February, 1970.

FROM: Aleks KURGVEL

SUBJECT: Aspects for a German Pension for Services in WW II.

1. Following your instructions, I went yesterday to the Legal Section of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York, N.Y.

I spoke with a gentleman in charge of pension matters to whom the receptionist directed me. I explained that I am a former Estonian officer, that I served with the German "Wehrmacht" during WW II and now, being 65, I would like to find out the amount of pension to which I am entitled for this service and how to apply for it.

2. I was asked how much I myself have contributed towards this pension. I said that the contributions, if any, were made automatically on the official basis in form of deductions from my salary, I don't know the details.

3. I was told that for the mere service I am not entitled to any pension. Pensions are being paid only to those people who became disabled due to war actions, or military service.

4. I mentioned that I know some former Estonian officers who do receive a German pension and I wondered whether those officers have, perhaps, acquired German citizenship. I asked for the name of the German law on the basis of which the pensions are being paid, in order to study it. The gentleman answered that this (studying) won't help. He knows the law, the "Kriegsversorgungsgesetz" (War Relief Law) - the citizenship is of no importance in these cases.

5. My conclusion is that these former Estonian officers who do receive German pension were probably declared disabled and their pension cases were settled with the help of some influential German officers like General Piekenbrock who was the deputy of Admiral Canaris in 1941. I was also offered some unspecified help by the Germans in 1950/51. But since I was at that time already in the process of immigration to the United States and soon thereafter became engaged "with the Americans" (Mr. Davis) then I thanked for the German offer and declined it. This German offer of help was extended to me by the former German Fregattenkapitan (Lt. Commander) A. Cellarius who was my first direct supervisor in the German intelligence service, a good friend of mine of whom I thought that he worked in the Gehlen intelligence organization.

Aleks Kurgvel